

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS



Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Name of Community

* Name of Community
City of Harrisonburg
* State

☒ **Virginia**

* Mayor or top elected official
Mayor Kai Degner
* Phone
540-442-0316
* Email
kai.degner@harrisonburgva.gov
* Address
345 S. Main St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801
* Website
www.harrisonburgva.gov

Applicant Profile

* Applicant Name
Ms. Thanh Dang
* Title
Public Works Planner
* Employer
City of Harrisonburg, VA
* Address
320 E. Mosby Rd.
* City
Harrisonburg
* State

☒ **Virginia**

* Zip
22801
* Phone
540-434-5928
* Email
thanhd@harrisonburgva.gov

Community Profile

The data in this section is gathered by the U.S. census. Click [here](#) to find the most recent information on your community.

* 1. Type of Jurisdiction

☒ **Town/City/Municipality**

☐ **County**

☐ **Metropolitan Planning Organization or Council of Governments**

☐ **Regional Planning Organization**

☐ **Rural Planning Organization**

☐ **Indian Nation**

☐ **Other**

If other, describe

* 2. Population
45616

3. Square mileage of community

* Total area
17.6

* Water area
0.4

* Land area
17.2

* 4. Population Density
2.559

5. Climate

* Average temperature for January

32.5

* Average temperature for April

53.5

* Average temperature for July

75.0

* Average temperature for October

55.0

* Average precipitation for January

2.64

* Average precipitation for April

2.55

* Average precipitation for July

3.29

* Average precipitation for October

2.91

* 6. Median Household Income

38695

7. Age distribution

* % under 5

6

* % age 6-17

11

* % age 18-64

75

* % age 65+

8

* Totals

100

8. Race

* % White

87

* % Black or African American

6.74

* % American Indian and Alaska Native

0.22

* % Asian

3.70

* % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

0.04

* % Some other race

0

* % One race

97.7

* % Two or more races

2.3

* Totals

100

* % Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

9

* 9. What is the name of your community's bicycle program manager?

Ms. Thanh Dang

* 10. In which department does your bicycle program manager work?



Engineering/public works



Planning



Parks and Recreation



Transportation



Other

If other, describe

* 11. Are you the Bicycle Program Manager?



Yes



No

* Bicycle Program Manager Phone

540-434-5928

* Bicycle Program Manager Email

thanhd@harrisonburgva.gov

* 12. What percentage of the community's Bicycle Program Manager's time is spent on bicycling issues?



10% or less



10-25%



25-50%



50-75%

☐ 75-100%

* 13. How many government employees, expressed in full-time equivalents, work on bicycle issues in your community?

2
* 14. Do you have a [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 14a. How often does it meet?

☐ Monthly

☐ Every two months

☒ Quarterly

☐ Annually

☐ Other (describe)

If other, describe

* 14b. How many members serve on the committee?

20
* 14c. Which of the following groups are represented or regularly attend the Bicycle Advisory Committee?

☒ User group

☒ Law enforcement

☐ Chamber of commerce

☒ Public health

☒ Planning department

☒ Transportation department

☐ School board

☒ Parks department

☐ Recreation department

☒ Transit agency

☒ Other (describe)

If other, describe

Other groups who have regular representation include: City Planning Commission, local universities (James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University), and one of two of our middle schools' principals. * NOTE: The City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee has been meeting regularly on a quarterly basis since 2007. The group is not chartered and does not have Council appointed members or a Committee Chair. There are currently 56 staff and citizens on the City maintained email list, which is used to inform them of upcoming meetings and other notices related to bicycling and pedestrian issues. An estimated 20 people regular attend meetings. Since filling out this application, we are now considering formalization of our committee (appointing members, designating committee chair, etc).

* 14d. Name of Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair

NA

* Email of Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair

NA@NA.com

* 15. Is there a bicycle advocacy group(s) in your community?

☒ Yes

☐ No

15a. What is the name of the advocacy group(s) (if more than one, list them all)

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition, New Community Project, Voluntary Gas Tax Group

* 15b. Are any of them working with you on this application?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 15c. List the name of the primary group:

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition

* 15d. Does this group have paid staff?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 15e. Do you contract with this group for any services or programs?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 15f. Who is the primary contact for them?

Mr. Paul Johnston

* 15g. Email of primary contact of advocacy group
ptjohnst@hotmail.com

* 16. What are the primary reasons your community has invested in bicycling?

☒ Improved quality of life

☒ Improving public health

☒ Community connectivity

☒ Transportation options

☒ Climate change concerns

☒ Decrease traffic congestion

☒ Increase tourism

☐ Increase property values

☐ Cooperation with adjacent communities

☒ Public demand

☐ Economic development

☒ Traffic safety

☐ Other (describe)

If other, describe

17. What was your community's most significant investment for bicycling in the past year?

In 2009, City in partnership with Norfolk Southern Railroad made two (2) roadway/railroad crossings safer for bicyclists - S. Main St. & Country Club Rd. The crossings at these two locations are near or less than 10-degrees and caused a significant number of reported and unreported bicycle accidents and injuries. Extended shoulders and separate "bike paths" were constructed to the sides of the roadways to provide bicyclists with an opportunity to cross the railroad tracks at near 90-degree angles. Engineer's estimates for the two projects totaled \$87K.

18. What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling in the following year?

The City in cooperation with a 12-member citizens advisory committee are currently working on an update to the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. It is anticipated that the new Plan will be presented to City Planning Commission and City Council for adoption in June 2010. The Plan includes 10-miles of new proposed shared use paths, 4-miles of new proposed signed share the road facilities, and over 13 miles of new bicycle lanes. * Additionally, the City's Erickson Ave.-Stone Spring Rd. project's Phase II will begin in 2010. Phase I began in 2008, and the entire 3.1-mile project will provide connectivity between east and west city limits in the southern portion of the City and will feature bicycle lanes in both directions. Phase III and IV are currently under design by the City.

Engineering

19. Does your community have

☐ a [complete streets policy](#)?

☒ a bicycle accommodation policy (a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing)?

☐ Neither

19a. When was it adopted

☒ 2005

19b. Provide a link or attach a copy of this legislation or policy.

City Bicycle Plan, 2005, www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped * City Comprehensive Plan, 2005, <http://www.ci.harrisonburg.va.us/index.php?id=903>

19c. How was it adopted?

☐ Legislation

☒ Resolution

☐ Internal Policy

☐ Other

If other, describe

19d. What tools are in place to ensure implementation?

☒ Implementation Guidance

☒ Design

☒ Manual

☐ Training

☐ Other

If other, describe

20. How do you ensure your engineers and planners accommodate cyclists according to [AASHTO](#) and [MUTCD](#) standards?

☒ Training

☐ Offer [FHWA/NHI Training Course](#)

☐ Hire Outside consultants to train staff

☒ Send staff to [bicycle-specific conferences/training](#)

☐ Require project consultants to have bike/ped qualifications

☒ Internal training or [design manual](#)

20a. Describe each checked

In 2007, engineering and planning staff from Departments of Public Works and Community Development participated in a webinar titled "Designing Bicycle Facilities" presented by Nazir Lalani.* The City's Design & Construction Standards Manual has bicycle accommodations and design standards for new construction and redevelopment. www.harrisonburgva.gov/dcsm

* 21. What percentage of bridges and tunnels in your community are accessible to bicyclists?

100

21a. What are the exceptions?

* 22. How do you ensure there are end-of-trip facilities for bicyclists?

☒ Bike parking ordinance

☐ Bike parking ordinance for all new developments

☐ Ordinance requiring showers and lockers

☐ Building accessibility ordinance

☐ On street bike parking

☐ [Ordinance that allows bike parking to substitute for car parking](#)

☒ Standards for bicycle parking that conform to [APBP guidelines](#)

☐ Other

If other, describe

23. How many bike parking spaces are there in your community?

23a. Bike racks

378

23b. Bike lockers

0

23c. Bike depot (i.e. [Bikestation](#))

0

23d. In-street bike parking

0

24. Approximately what percentage of these locations have bike racks or storage units?

24a. Schools

☒ 91-100%

24b. Libraries

☒ 91-100%

24c. Transit Stations

☒ **Not Applicable**

24d. Parks & Recreation Centers

☒ **46-60%**

24e. Government buildings

☒ **61-75%**

24f. Office buildings

☒ **less than 15%**

24g. Shops

☒ **less than 15%**

24h. Public Housing

☒ **31-45%**

* 25. Does your community have transit service?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

* 25a. Are buses equipped with [bike racks](#)?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

25b. What percentage?

☒ **91-100%**

25c. Are bikes allowed inside transit vehicles?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **Sometimes**

☒ **No**

If yes or sometimes, describe

* 26. What is the mileage of your total road network?

148

* 27. What is the mileage of your total shared-use path network?

2

28. List your current and planned bicycle accommodations?

a. [Bike lanes](#)

Current

4

Planned

6

b. [Shared lane markings](#)

Current

5

Planned

10

c. [Bike boulevards](#)

Current

0

Planned

0

d. Signed bike routes

Current

3

Planned

19

e. Paved shared use paths

Current

2

Planned

3

f. Natural surface shared use paths

Current

0

Planned

0

g. [Singletrack](#)

Current

4

Planned

1

* 29. What other innovative ways have you improved on-road conditions for bicyclists?

- ☐ [Road diets](#)
- ☐ [Area wide traffic calming](#)
- ☐ [Cycle tracks](#)
- ☐ [Contra-flow bike lanes](#)
- ☐ Speed limits 20 mph or less on residential streets
- ☐ Bike cut thrus
- ☐ [Way-finding signage with distance and/or time information](#)
- ☒ None
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

* 30. What percentage of arterial streets have bike lanes or paved shoulders?

2

* 31. What percentage of natural surface, trails and singletrack are open to bicyclists?

0

31a. What are the exceptions?

32. What maintenance policies or programs ensure *bike lanes* and *shoulders* remain usable and safe?

* 32a. Street sweeping

- ☐ Before other travel lanes
- ☒ Same time as other travel lanes
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

* 32b. Snow clearance

- ☐ Before other travel lanes
- ☐ Same time as other travel lanes
- ☐ Within 48 hours of storm
- ☐ Never
- ☒ Other
- ☐ Not applicable

If other, describe

Snow is removed from bicycle lanes at the same time as other travel lanes by snow plow trucks. * However, with the new construction of new "bike paths" and shoulders at the railroad crossings on S. Main St. and Country Club Rd. in 2009, when the December 2009 snow storms came, it was found that city staff had not prepared a plan for snow removal from these facilities which was compounded with unusually consistent below freezing temperatures.

* 32c. Pothole maintenance

- ☐ Within 24 hours of complaint
- ☒ Within one week of complaint
- ☐ Within one month of complaint
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

32d. Other Maintenance policies or programs for bike lanes and shoulders (describe)

Bicycle lanes and shoulders are maintained as part of the regular street maintenance schedule.

33. What maintenance policies or programs ensure *shared-use paths* remain safe and usable?

* 33a. Path sweeping

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☒ Never
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

* 33b. Vegetation maintenance

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☒ Annually
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

* 33c. Snow clearance

- ☐ Before roadways
- ☐ Same time as roadways
- ☐ Within 48 hours of storm
- ☒ Never
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not applicable

If other, describe

* 33d. Surface repair

- ☐ Within 24 hours of complaint
- ☒ Within one week of complaint
- ☐ Within one month of complaint
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other

If other, describe

33e. Other Maintenance policies or programs for shared-use paths (describe)

* 34. How do you accommodate cyclists at intersections in your community?

- ☐ All /Most signals are timed for bicyclists
- ☐ All /Most signals are timed
- ☐ [Loop detector markings](#)
- ☒ [Video detection](#)
- ☐ [Advance stop line or Bike Box](#)
- ☐ [Bicycle signal heads](#)

☐ Other

☐ None of the above

If other, describe

* 35. Are there other infrastructure improvements in your community to promote bicycling?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, describe

Education

* 36. Do schools in your community offer a [Safe Routes to School](#) (or comparable) program that includes bicycling education?

☒ Yes

☐ No

What percentage of schools in your jurisdiction participates?

a. Elementary (percentage)

40

b. Middle School (percentage)

0

c. High School (percentage)

0

* 37. Outside of schools, how are children taught safe bicycling skills?

☐ Youth bike clubs

☒ [Bike clinics or rodeos](#)

☒ Youth recreation programs

☒ Helmet fit seminars

☐ [Safety town](#)

☒ Trail riding classes

☒ Other

☐ None of the above

If other, describe

There is a collaborative group of government agencies, health professionals, schools, and local non-profits that collaborate to put on the "Walk Smart, Bike Smart" display in September of each year at the Harrisonburg International Festival. In past years, the group has included bicycle helmet giveaways and fittings, bicycle safety quizzes for bicyclists and motorists, and red flashing safety strobe lights. Over 6,000 people attend this event each year. www.harrisonburg-international-festival.org * There is a community bicycle shop called "Everyday Bikes", which serves low-income and homeless individuals to supply them with commuter bikes. During that exchange they are taught basic bike safety and rules of the road when getting a bicycle. These individuals volunteer four hours at the shop to earn their bike and are taught basic bicycle repair and maintenance.

* 38. Do you have a [diversion program](#) for cyclists or motorists?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, describe

* 39. What have you done in the last 18 months to educate motorists and bicyclists on sharing the road safely?

☒ Public service announcements

☐ Community newsletter article

☐ New resident packet

☐ Utility bill insert

☐ Bicycle ambassador program

☐ Newspaper column/blog on bicycling

☒ Dedicated bike page on community Web site

☐ Billboards

- ☒ **Share the Road Signs**
- ☒ **Share the road information in driver's education**
- ☐ **Other**
- ☐ **None of the above**

If other, describe

40. What of the following options are available on a regular basis to your community?

* 40a. [Traffic Skills 101](#) (or equivalent) classes -- including classroom and on-bike instruction.

- ☐ **Weekly**
- ☐ **Monthly**
- ☐ **Quarterly**
- ☐ **Annually**
- ☒ **Never**
- ☐ **Other**

If other, describe

* 40b. Cycling Skills classes -- three to four hour classroom training courses

- ☐ **Weekly**
- ☐ **Monthly**
- ☐ **Quarterly**
- ☐ **Annually**
- ☒ **Never**
- ☐ **Other**

If other, describe

* 40c. Commuter classes - one/two hour classes

- ☐ **Weekly**
- ☐ **Monthly**
- ☐ **Quarterly**
- ☐ **Annually**
- ☒ **Never**
- ☐ **Other**

If other, describe

* 41. Has your community hosted a [League Cycling Instructor seminar](#) in the past two years?

- ☐ **Yes**
- ☒ **No**

* 42. How many [League Cycling Instructors](#) are there in your community?

0

43. List active League Cycling Instructors (active means they have taught at least one class during the past 12 months).

NA

44. Does your community have driver training for any of the following professional drivers that include information on sharing the road with cyclists?

- ☐ **City staff**
- ☐ **Taxi drivers**
- ☐ **Transit operators**
- ☐ **School bus operators**

☐ Delivery drivers

☐ Other

* If other, describe

* 44a. If yes to any of the above, describe the program.

* 45. Describe any efforts your community has made to ensure your education programs reach traditionally underserved populations.

There is a collaborative group of government agencies, health professionals, schools, and local non-profits that collaborate to put on the "Walk Smart, Bike Smart" display in September of each year at the Harrisonburg International Festival. In past years, we have included bicycle helmet giveaways and fittings, bicycle safety quizzes for bicyclists and motorists, and red flashing safety strobe lights. Notably, the bicycle safety quizzes are translated into Spanish. Over 6,000 people attend this event.

www.harrisonburg-international-festival.org * Since 2007, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO)'s Bicycle & Pedestrian Education Committee has funded radio PSAs on several local radio stations throughout the year. In 2009, when a new Spanish-speaking radio station began airing in the community (La Grand), the committee put some of its funding towards placing radio PSAs on this station in addition to the other English speaking stations. * We recognize that more needs to be done in our community to reach our under-served populations.

* 46. Are there other education efforts in your community to promote bicycling?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 46a. If yes, describe

The City of Harrisonburg in collaboration with the HRMPO, the Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission, City Transportation Safety Commission, and James Madison University has initiated the "Bike Like Ike Campaign." A soft launch on the website, www.bikethevalley.org, and inclusion of information on JMU's PottyMount fliers and table tents at JMU's dining tables was started in Spring 2009. A full launch including fliers and public transit bus ads will begin in March 2010. * The Harrisonburg Fire Department and Safe Kids of the Central Shenandoah Valley teaches bicycle and pedestrian safety to all third grade classrooms as part of the Risk Watch Program. Classes are also taught in middle school physical education classes. * Three years ago Safe Kids received a grant and gave out 4,000 bicycle helmets to all children in city schools. Safe Kids continues to give out helmets as needed and for two years have given helmets to each child receiving a bicycle for Christmas from the Salvation Army Toy Drive (approximately 100 helmets each year). * Safe Kids also hosts a Summer Safety Tour that travels to low-income housing neighborhoods to talk with families about safety. Bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular safety are included in the program. This program has been going on for about 5 years and has been very successful as the program is being taken to the people rather than requiring people to travel elsewhere.

Encouragement

* 47. How do you promote [National Bike Month](#)?

☒ City Proclamation

☐ Community Ride

☐ Mayor-led Ride

☒ Public Service Announcements

☐ Publish a guide to Bike Month Events

☐ Bike Month Web site

☐ Commuter Challenge

☐ Commuter Breakfasts

☐ Trail construction or maintenance day

☐ Other

☐ No promotion

* If other, describe

* 48. How many people participate in [Bike Month](#) events?

0

* 49. How do you promote bicycling outside of [National Bike Month](#)?

☒ Community Ride

☐ Mayor-led Ride

☒ Public Service Announcements

☒ Trail construction or maintenance day

☐ [Summer Streets/Ciclovia/Sunday Parkways](#)

☒ Commuter Challenge

☐ Commuter Breakfasts

☒ Other

☐ No promotion

* If other, describe

The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) in conjunction with its RideShare program offers a Guaranteed Ride Home Program that people who commute to work by bicycle may also take advantage of. www.rideshareinfo.org

* 50. Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 50a. If yes, describe

* 50b. Approximately what percentage of the community workforce do you reach?

* 51. List the signature cycling events in your community?

*** Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Festival, <http://www.ourcommunityplace.org/bikefest/> * Bike Shenandoah, <http://www.bikeshenandoah.org/> * Shenandoah Valley Century, <http://www.svbcoalition.org/events/century/> * Shenandoah Mountain 100, http://www.mtntouring.com/mountain/htm/home/page_home.htm * Massanutten Hoo Ha, http://go.imba.com/site/TR/Volunteerfundraiser/TeamIMBA?fr_id=1200&pg=entry * Fall Foliage Festival, <http://www.shenandoahbike.org/>**

* 52. Does the municipality sponsor or actively support any of these rides?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 52a. If yes, how?

In 2008, when the Tour of Virginia event took place in Downtown Harrisonburg, the City assisted with street closures for the ride.

* 53. Does your local tourism board promote bicycling in your area?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 53a. If yes, how?

The Harrisonburg Tourism Office promotes bicycling in Harrisonburg in a variety of ways. Anticipated by February 1, 2010 the Tourism Office are launching a new website that will provide visitors with a comprehensive look at area trails, sites, and services for all bicycling enthusiasts. Currently, the Tourism Office includes an outdoor article highlighting Rocktown Trails in the Visitors Guide. Tourism markets Harrisonburg in Recreation News and Parkway publications among others. The Visitor Center provides a complete collection of bicycling opportunities in Harrisonburg with a kiosk dedicated to outdoor adventure including city, county, and mountain biking trails. All bicycling events held in Harrisonburg and in the surrounding region are promoted on Tourism's online event calendar. The Tourism office recruits big bicycling events that will boost the local economy. Past events have included 2005 Bike Virginia; 2006, 2007 Tour of Shenandoah; 2008 Tour of Virginia, and 2010 Bike Virginia. The 2010 Bike Virginia event this June will bring 3,000 bicyclists to the City and downtown Harrisonburg. The Tourism office also works with local bicycle clubs and shops to promote their services to visitors via web and print marketing. In 2009, the Tourism office actually brought the show on the road, picked up a bicycle compliments of the Shenandoah Bicycle Company and provided a demo for the day. Visitors traveling into the Commonwealth via Interstate 81 South at the Clearbrook Welcome Center were provided with a wealth of bicycling opportunities in Harrisonburg, VA.

* 54. Are there cycling organizations in your area?

☒ Recreational Bike Clubs

☒ Mountain Bike Clubs

☒ Friends of the Trail Groups

☐ National Mountain Bike Patrol

☒ Racing Clubs or Teams

☒ Bicycle Co-ops

☐ Other

☐ None

* If other, describe.

* 54a. For each type of club checked, list names of the organizations.

***Recreational - Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition * Mountain - Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition * Friends of the Trails Groups - Shenandoah Bicycle Coalition * *Racing Clubs - USCS Club * Bicycle Co-Ops - Everyday Bikes**

* 55. How many [specialty bicycle retailers](#) (i.e shops dedicated primarily to selling bikes and bike-related equipment) are there in your community?

3

* 55a. List their names.

Shenandoah Bicycle Company, Mark's Bike Shop, East Coast Bicycle Academy

* 56. Which of these bicycling areas or facilities do you have in your community?

☐ BMX track

☐ Velodrome

☐ Cyclocross course

☒ Mountain bike park

☒ **Pump Tracks**

☐ **Other**

☐ **None**

* If other, describe.

* 57. Is there a skatepark in your community?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

* 57a. If yes, do bikes have access to the skatepark?

☒ **Always**

☐ **Sometimes**

☐ **Never**

* 58. Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

* 59. Does your community have a bike sharing program?

☐ **Yes**

☒ **No**

59a. If yes, of what use is it?

☐ **Public use**

☐ **Private institution**

☐ **Other**

* If other, describe

* 60. Do you have any current [Bicycle Friendly Businesses](#) in your community?

☐ **Yes**

☒ **No**

* 60a. If yes, list the names of the businesses.

* 61. Does your community have youth recreation and/or intervention programs centered around bicycling?

☒ [Recycle a Bicycle](#)

☐ [Trips for Kids chapter](#)

☒ [Earn a Bike program](#)

☒ **Co-op or Community Cycling Center**

☐ **Other**

☐ **None**

* If other, describe

* 62. What mapping and route finding information is available for your community which has been updated in the last 18 months?

☐ **Online route finding service**

☒ **Online map**

☒ **Printed on-road bike-routes map**

☒ **Printed mountain bike trails map**

☐ **Other**

☐ **None available**

* If other, describe

* 63. Does your community have other programs or policies to encourage cycling?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 63a. If yes, describe

Enforcement

* 64. How does your police department interact with the local cycling community?

☒ A police officer is an active member of bicycle advisory committee

☒ Identified law-enforcement point person to interact with cyclists

☐ No current formal interaction

☐ Other

* If other, describe

* 65. What kind of training is offered to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?

☒ Basic academy training

☒ [International Police Mountain Bike Association](#) or Law Enforcement Bicycle Association training

☐ [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Law Enforcement Training](#)

☐ Completion of [Smart Cycling course](#) by Police

☒ Presentation by League Cycling Instructor or local cyclist

☐ Institute for Police Training and Development bicycle training

☐ Other

☐ No training currently offered

* If other, describe

* 66. What enforcement campaigns are targeted at improving cyclist safety?

☒ Helmet/light giveaways

☒ Targeting motorist infractions

☒ Targeting cyclist infractions

☒ Share the road campaigns

☐ Other

☐ None of the above

* If other, describe

* 67. Do you have police department employees on bikes?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 67a. If yes, what percentage of police department employees is on bike?

10

* 68. Are there any other public safety (e.g. fire department or EMS) employees on bikes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 68a. If yes, what percentage of police department employees is on bike?

* 69. Do your local ordinances treat bicyclists [equitably](#)? (examples can be found on the [BFC resources page](#)).

☒ There are specific penalties for failing to yield to a cyclist when turning. It is illegal to park or drive in a bike lane (intersections excepted)

☒ There are penalties for motor vehicle users that 'door' cyclists

☒ There is a ban on cell phone use while driving.

- ☒ There is a ban on texting while driving.
- ☐ The community uses photo enforcement for red lights and/or speed
- ☐ There is a state or local law that requires cyclists to use sidepaths regardless of their usability.
- ☐ There is a state or local law that requires cyclists to use bike lanes where they are provided.
- ☒ Cyclists are required to ride as far to the right of the road as practicable without exceptions listed in [Uniform Vehicle Code](#).
- ☐ There is a general restriction on bicyclists riding on the sidewalk.
- ☒ There are local or school policies that restrict youths from riding to school.
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Additional information on any of the above mentioned ordinances as it pertains to your community.

* If Additional Information, describe

* 70. Are there any additional prohibitions or restrictions on cyclists in your community?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 70a. If yes, describe

* 71. Does your community have other programs or policies to enforce safe cycling?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 71a. If yes, describe

Evaluation and Planning

* 72. What is the most current journey-to-work data for your community? (this percentage can be found in the [U.S. Census or the American Community Survey](#))

1

* 73. What additional information do you have on bicycle use for your community?

We believe that the journey-to-work data for our community currently available from the US Census is not accurate. It is reported that our population is 18,000 and that the percentage for journey-to-work is 1.22%. However, our most recent (2009) population estimates is 45,616. At 1% that estimates that only 450 people ride their bike to work, which we believe is a low number for our community. Unfortunately, we do not have any data collected on bicycle use in our community, but will be exploring the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

* 74. How many cyclist/motor vehicle fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years?

0

* 75. How many cyclist/motor vehicle crashes have occurred in your community in the past five years?

30

* 76. Do you have a specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 76a. If yes, provide the link to the plan or describe.

* 77. Does your community have a bicycle plan?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 77a. When was it passed or most recently updated?

☒ 2005

* 77b. Is there a dedicated funding source for implementation?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 77c. If yes, describe.

Since 2005, \$30,000 to 40,000 has been allocated each budget year into a City Capital Improvement Fund for Bicycle Facilities. Funds not used in one year is rolled over into the next year.

* 77d. What percentage of the plan has been implemented?

☒ 25%

* 77e. Are you meeting annual target goals for implementation?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 77f. Provide a link to the plan or describe.

www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped Since May 2009, a 12-member city staff and citizen advisory committee has been working on updating the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan for presentation and adoption by City Planning Commission and City Council in June 2010. At the time of this application submittal, the plan is 95% done. We are waiting for public input for the City's Comprehensive Plan update to begin, to be sure that we include and coordinate any comments or changes in the Comprehensive Plan in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

* 78. Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 78a. If yes, provide the link to the plan or describe.

* 79. Is there [formal cooperation](#) between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 79a. If yes, describe.

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition members and volunteers have cooperated and continue to meet with City Parks & Recreation Department staff (as needed) concerning Rocktown Trails in Hillandale Park which is currently a 3.5-mile mountain bike facility with pump track.

* 80. Do you have [trip reduction ordinances, policies or programs](#)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 80a. If yes, describe.

* 81. Have you done an [economic impact study](#) on bicycling in your community?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 81a. If yes, describe.

* 82. Do you have a mechanism to ensure facilities, programs and encouragement efforts are implemented in traditionally underserved communities?

☐ Yes

☒ No

* 82a. If yes, describe.

* 83. Does your community have other programs or policies to evaluate and/or plan bicycling conditions, programs, and facilities in your community?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 83a. If yes, describe.

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, which meets quarterly, serves as an opportunity for city staff to receive citizen feedback on conditions of existing facilities and locations of needed facilities and programs.

[Final Overview](#)

84. What are the three primary reasons your community deserves to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community?

* 84a.

Proactive cycling Community - The central Shenandoah Valley is a haven for both on and off road cyclists. Hundreds of miles of meandering country roads and twisting single track can be found within minutes of our city. Harrisonburg is at the geographic center and its citizens have been instrumental in nurturing a cycling friendly culture. Through the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition advocacy efforts have succeeded in establishing close working relationships with the forest service, private land owners and city staff. Over the past three decades our cycling community has been proactive on countless fronts promoting the bicycle for recreation and transportation.

* 84b.

Physical Change - Positive working relationships between city staff and committed citizens have been the catalyst for tangible improvements in the cycling infrastructure. Recent additions of bike lanes and shared use paths underscore the City's commitment to recognize the bicycle as an integral part of its transportation network. The City understands the benefit of a well implemented bicycle plan as the population of the city and both the universities within its limits have grown. Through its most recent actions the City of Harrisonburg has affirmed its commitment to providing a safe way for all of its citizens to navigate the streets by bike.

* 84c.

The Future - The newest city bicycle plan, set for adoption by City Council in 2010, is far superior to previous documents in its scope and goals. In a creative and unprecedented gesture members of city staff have accepted an invitation from community bicycling advocates for an all expense paid trip to Davis, California this Spring. The goal of the trip is to witness first hand what a premier cycling community looks like. The willingness of staff, Planning Commission and City Council members to take time from their schedules to attend this trip highlights their commitment to making positive changes for cyclists in the community. This trip is being funded 100% by citizen groups and no City government funds are being utilized.

85. What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists?

* 85a.

Funding - The number one limitation that faces the city is the lack of significant dollars appropriated for the implementation of the current bicycle plan. The \$30,000 budgeted annually by the city is not nearly enough cash to pay for the pavement, paint and signage needed for a safe and effective bicycling infrastructure. There is also limited funding currently appropriated for long-term maintenance for facilities. Further, citizens have expressed the need for a full time bicycle (and pedestrian) coordinator on city staff. Efforts have been made to assign certain projects in the bike plan as capital improvement projects; but that has yet to come to fruition.

* 85b.

Education - Harrisonburg and its cycling community would benefit greatly by having a local League Cycling Instructor. Efforts by cycling advocates in the community have been concentrated on making physical improvements by pushing for pavement, paint and

signage; education has taken a back seat. Much needs to be done to inform local motorists and cyclists on how to safely share city streets. Although there are annual bike rodeos that target children no formal training for adult citizens has been organized.

* 85c.

Partnerships - We recognize that establishing working relationships with the largest employers and land owners in town is imperative. Namely James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University and Rockingham Memorial hospital can all benefit from a well integrated cycling network. Currently members from each of the above institutions are on the Bicycle Advisory Committee; however more needs to be done within each institution to support and promote a bicycling culture.

* 86. Are you planning any new projects based on your completion of the Bicycle Friendly Community application?



Yes



No

* 86a. If yes, describe.

*** Improving education and outreach to our community, with focus on the underserved. * City departments recognize the need for maintenance program funding source for shared use paths and bicycle facilities and will request this from City Council in next year's budget. * City Public Transit Department has already begun development of new training for their transit and school bus drivers regarding sharing the road with bicyclists, expected training in February or March 2010 * Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition's Advocacy Committee has begun discussions about sponsoring a member to become a certified League Cycling Instructor and work with the City and other groups to host Traffic 101, Cycling Skills classes, and Commuter classes.**

* 87. Has completing this application made you more aware of what your community needs to do to be bicycle friendly?



Yes



No

* 87a. If yes, describe.

As noted in answer 86a. the group of individuals completing this application have already started planning new projects based on the completion of the application. We have also noted gaps that we had not previously recognized and that we can now work to fill. It is also our hope that sharing the answers collected for this application with members of the community will also help generate more awareness and collaboration between individuals and groups that share the interest of creating a bicycle friendly community.